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The First House of Lords

The concept of a "House of Lords" in the 13 Colonies is a bit of a misnomer, as the British system of Lords and Commons was not replicated in the American colonies. Instead, the closest equivalent to the House of Lords in the colonies was the upper house of the colonial legislatures, often called the Governor's Council or the Council. These bodies were composed of wealthy landowners, merchants, and other prominent individuals, appointed by the colonial governors or, in proprietary colonies, by the proprietors themselves. These councils served as advisory bodies to the governors and had legislative powers,

which included the approval of bills passed by the lower house, the colonial assemblies.

The colonial assemblies, on the other hand, were the first forms of representative government in the New World, with the Virginia House of Burgesses being the most notable example. Established in 1619, it was the first elected legislative body in the English colonies, setting a precedent for self-governance that would eventually lead to the American Revolution. Members of these assemblies, known as burgesses or delegates, were elected by the freeholders and landowners of the colony and were responsible for making laws and decisions on local matters.

The structure of colonial governments varied from one colony to another, reflecting the diversity of the English colonial enterprise. Some colonies had bicameral legislatures, while others had unicameral ones. The power dynamics between the governor, council, and assembly varied as well, often leading to conflicts and power struggles that foreshadowed the larger conflict to come with Britain.

As tensions between the colonies and the British Crown intensified, these colonial legislatures became hotbeds of revolutionary activity. They debated and passed resolutions against British policies, coordinated intercolonial resistance, and

ultimately, helped to organize the Continental Congress, which would become the governing body of the United States during the Revolutionary War.

The lore of the "first house of Lords of the 13 Colonies" is thus a tale of the evolution of governance in the American colonies. It is a story of how disparate and distant colonies, each with its own form of government, gradually came together to form a united front against what they saw as overreach by the British Parliament and Crown.

This journey laid the groundwork for the creation of the United States and its system of government, which, while inspired by British traditions, was uniquely American in its emphasis on

representation and self-governance. The legacy of these early colonial institutions can still be seen today in the American political system, which values checks and balances, the rule of law, and the power of the people to elect their representatives.